of 1974 and 1976, has been discussed by the Government with the Government of Sri Lanka, including at the Foreign Secretary level talks held recently.

Amendment to Haj Act

657. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendment of Haj Act is under positive consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what is the present stage of consideration; and

(c) by when a new bill is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament on the Haj Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have been planning to introduce a new bill on Haj to replace the existing Haj Committee Act (No. 51) of 1959.

(b) The legislative proposals to be incorporated in the Bill are under active consideration.

(c) The new Bill is proposed to be introduced at an early date, after all aspects have been examined.

New Sino-India border pact

658. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new border policy with China was laid down by way of the new Sino-India border pact signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken for implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) During the Prime Minister's visit to China, the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility Along the Line of Actual Control on the India-China Border Areas was signed in Beijing on September 7, 1993.

(b) A copy of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic f China on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, has been placed in the Parliament Library;

(c) Details regarding implementation of the agreement will be worked out by diplomatic and military experts under the India-China Joint working Group (JWG). The first meeting of the expert group is expected to be convened early next year.

Statement by Pakistan High Commissioner on Kashmir issue

659. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent utterances of Pakistan High Commissioner regarding the Kashmir issue and its attempt to internationalise the dispute; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard to the violation of the diplomatic ethics by the High Commissioner of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Speaking to the press at Madras (1|9|93). Pakistan High Commissioner reportedly claims that Simla Agreement does not prohibit Pakistan from raising the Jammu & Kashmir issue at international fora. Pakistan High Commissioner also stated that Pakistan was willing to have Bilateral negotiations on the Kashmir issue.